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Approved For Release 2005/03/16 : CIA-RDP80B01554R003300300032-2

Washington, D. C. 20505

16 January 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lieutenant General Eugene F. Tighe, Jr., USAF
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: DIA Report on Korea ☐

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1. I appreciated your sending a copy of the DIA report on North and South Korean military capabilities. I have read it in toto and think it is an excellent piece of work. ☐

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2. I particularly liked several sections:

a. Paragraph 3c, which translates the force levels into maneuver battalions. Surprisingly it shows that there has been no change in 1978, though I am not sure how that would compare with the ☐ figures of the spring of 1977.

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b. Paragraph 4b, which describes the uncertainty with respect to ground forces more clearly than I have seen previously. It also leaves a greater sense of uncertainty than what I have put into my briefings. I am inclined to agree with it, particularly the section on manning of individual units and hence total personnel strength. I would appreciate it if your analysts and those at the CIA could get together on this section in particular to see if we can reach agreement as to how best to express this degree of certainty. ☐

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3. The only areas where I felt the study was weak were on naval forces and air forces. There appears here to be a tendency to count numbers of units and assume that that translates directly on the combat capability. It seems to me that with the air forces we should look at relative defensive capabilities, considering both numbers of aircraft and quality and with respect to ground attack capability the same. With regard to navies, we should look at both the sea denial and the amphibious projection capabilities of the North Korean navy and play them against the sea control capabilities of the South Korean navy. It is my personal inclination that in neither the air nor the naval scenes is it nearly as clear-cut as your study makes out that the North Koreans are ahead. ☐

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4. Thanks. ☐



STANSFIELD TURNER

cc: DD/NFA
NIO/East Asia

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